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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, PANAMA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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SUBJECT: Arrival of Mr. Pat Holt, Consultant, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Mr. Ralph R. WILL, Director of U.S.A. Operations Mission to Panamá, and Mr. O. J. LIBERT, First Secretary, in charge of the Economic Section, met Mr. Pat HOLT upon his arrival at Tocumen Airport on July 28 at 11:40 a.m. A preliminary discussion was held with Mr. Holt concerning the political-economic situation and some aspects of the Technical Assistance Program in Panamá.

The Embassy and USOM collaborated in preparing a statement for Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper based upon the outline for post summary. Mr. Holt was highly pleased to receive an eight-page summary of the questionnaire information for Senator Hickenlooper, five copies of which are attached. He stated that Senator Hickenlooper did not expect this post to contribute an extensive report on the Technical Assistance Program. He felt that it was a commendable undertaking and would serve an essentially useful purpose.

Mr. Holt stated that he had been in Panamá previously on a survey for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, extending for a period of three days, about three years ago. He thought it would be a good idea to spend part of his time here in being briefed on important developments, particularly since the assassination of President REMON.

At an appointed time, Mr. Will spent part of the afternoon with Mr. Holt discussing matters pertaining to operations of the Technical Assistance Mission and other related subjects. Mr. Holt was interested in political-economic problems of the present administration in Panamá, primarily concerning any evidence of carrying on the line of reform policies advocated by President Remón. A separate report, covering the interview with Mr. Holt, will be submitted by the Director of the ICA Mission.

The Embassy offered to be of service to Mr. Holt to the fullest extent during his short stay in Panamá. He appeared to be pleased with the reception at the airport, the briefing session with Mr. Will, and arrangements for local transportation. He departed from Panamá July 29 at 3:15 a.m.

Enclosure:

Five copies Summary, Panamá.

R. Austin Acly
Counselor of Embassy

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